AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) Method of recovering information in an interactive digital television system (106), in which information from a transmission centre (101) is transported in a data stream (10) to at least one terminal device (111) in which one or more applications (322) are running, the method comprising:

    a step of loading and storing the information in a memory (103) provided in the terminal device (111),

    a step of receiving (E40) from the at least one application (322) a request to recover the information; and

    a step of recovering (E44) of the information from an information carrier (10, 103) containing the information and provision of the duly recovered information to the at least one application (322) sending the request; and

    characterized in that it further comprises the step carried out in the terminal device (111) of searching (E41) for the information, according to at least one predefined selection criterion, in at least one of the information carriers formed by the data stream (10), and the memory (103).

2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the search step b) comprises the following sub-step of:

    searching (Type 1) for the information in the memory (103).

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the search step b) comprises the following sub-step of:

    searching (Type 2) for the information in the data stream (10).

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the search step b) comprises the following sub-step of:

    searching (Type 4) for the information in the memory (103) after an unsuccessful search in the data stream (10).

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the search step ~~b)~~ comprises the ~~following~~ sub-step of:

   searching ~~(Type 3)~~ for the information in the data stream ~~(10)~~ after an unsuccessful search in the memory ~~(103)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the information is encapsulated in at least one MPEG table identified by a respective table identifier ~~(TID)~~.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the search step comprises the sub-step ~~(E502, E505, E508, E512)~~ of searching for the MPEG table from its respective table identifier ~~(TID)~~ whereas the recovery step comprises the sub-step ~~(E507, E510, E514)~~ of recovering the information from the duly identified MPEG table.

8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7, characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising the step of defining at least one the selection criterion by the application ~~(322)~~.

9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8, characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising the step of defining at least one the selection criterion by an intermediate software layer ~~(300b, 600)~~ and/or a hardware layer ~~(300c, 600)~~ of the terminal device ~~(111)~~.

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 9, characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising the step of defining at least one the selection criterion by the interactive digital television system ~~(106)~~.

11. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising the step of storing the information and/or MPEG tables in the memory ~~(103)~~ according to a structural organization similar to that of the information and/or MPEG tables in the data stream ~~(10)~~.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 11~~, ~~characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising the step of formatting ~~(EA4, EB4)~~ the recovered information before supplying the latter to the at least one application ~~(322)~~ sending the request.

13. (Currently amended) Information recovery device in an interactive digital television system ~~(106)~~ in which information originating from a transmission centre ~~(101)~~ is transported in a data stream ~~(10)~~ to at least one terminal device ~~(111)~~ in which one or more applications ~~(322)~~ are running, the terminal device ~~(111)~~ being equipped with:

    an information memory ~~(103)~~,

    means ~~(103a)~~ for loading the information into the information memory ~~(103)~~,

    means ~~(211, 322b, 316, 320, 318)~~ for receiving a request sent by at least one the application ~~(322)~~ to recover the information;

    means ~~(211, 322b, 316, 320, 318)~~ for recovering the information from an information carrier ~~(10, 103)~~ containing the information and supplying the duly recovered information to the at least one application ~~(322)~~ sending the request; and

    ~~characterized in that it further comprises:~~

    means ~~(211, 322b, 316, 320, 318)~~ for searching, according to at least one predefined selection criterion, for the information in at least one of the information carriers formed by the data stream ~~(10)~~ and the information memory ~~(103)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the search means comprise first additional means for searching for the information in the memory ~~(103)~~.

15. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the search means comprise second additional means for searching for the information in the data stream ~~(10)~~.

16. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the search means comprise third additional means for searching for the information in the memory ~~(103)~~ after an unsuccessful search in the data stream ~~(10)~~.

17. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the search means comprise fourth additional means for searching for the information in the data stream ~~(10)~~ after an unsuccessful search in the memory ~~(103)~~.

18. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 ~~to 17~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the information is encapsulated in at least one MPEG table identified by a respective table identifier ~~(TID)~~.

19. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the search means comprise fifth additional means for searching for the MPEG table from its respective table identifier ~~(TID)~~ whereas the recovery means comprise additional means for recovering the information from the duly identified MPEG table.

20. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 ~~to 19~~, ~~characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising first means for defining at least one the selection criterion by the application ~~(322)~~.

21. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 ~~to 20~~, ~~characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising second means for defining at least one the selection criterion by an intermediate software layer ~~(300b, 600)~~ and/or a hardware layer ~~(300c, 600)~~ of the terminal device ~~(111)~~.

22. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 ~~to 21~~, ~~characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising third means for defining at least one the selection criterion by the interactive digital television system ~~(106)~~.

23. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 ~~to 22 and claim 18~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the memory ~~(103)~~ comprises additional means for storing the information and/or MPEG tables according to a structural organization similar to that of the information and/or MPEG tables in the data stream ~~(10)~~.

24. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 ~~to 23~~, ~~characterized in that it furthermore comprises~~ further comprising means ~~(601)~~ for formatting the recovered information before supplying it to the at least one application ~~(322)~~ sending the request.

25. (Currently amended) Receiver/decoder device in an interactive digital television system (106), ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising means suited to implementation of the information recovery method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~.

26. (Currently amended) Receiver/decoder device in an interactive digital television system, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising an information recovery device (103b) according to claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 24~~.

27. (Currently amended) Terminal device in an interactive digital television system, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a receiver/decoder device (102) according to claim 25[[.]] ~~or 26~~.

28. (Currently amended) Interactive digital television system, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one receiver/decoder device (102) according to claim 25[[.]] ~~or 26~~.

29. (Currently amended) Interactive digital television system, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one terminal device (111) according to claim 27.

30. (New) Terminal device in an interactive digital television system, comprising a receiver/decoder device according to claim 26.

31. (New) Interactive digital television system, comprising at least one receiver/decoder device according to claim 26.